

## Country Profile | President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

# Malawi

June 2006



### At a Glance:

Population: 13 million

Life expectancy at birth: 42 years<sup>1</sup>

Under-5 child mortality rate:  $\approx 17\%$  <sup>2</sup>

Reported malaria cases: 3 million <sup>\* 3</sup>

Proportion of child deaths attributable to malaria: 14% <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CIA World Fact Book

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, 2005

<sup>3</sup> 2005 World Malaria Report (2003 data) – WHO/Roll Back Malaria

<sup>4</sup> The burden of malaria mortality among African children in the year 2000, Int. J. of Epidemiology. 2/28/2006

### Background

All Malawians are at risk of contracting malaria. Malaria is responsible for up to 30 percent of outpatient visits, 20 percent of hospital admissions, and 25 percent of hospital deaths.

### Goal

The goal of the PMI is to reduce malaria-related mortality by 50 percent in target countries by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups – principally pregnant women, children under 5 years of age, and persons living with HIV/AIDS – with lifesaving services, supplies, and medicines.

### Key Intervention Strategies

In support of the national malaria control program and in coordination with all development partners, including nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and the private sector, the PMI backs four key intervention strategies to prevent and treat malaria:

- Spraying with insecticides (“Indoor residual spraying,” or IRS) in homes
- Insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs)
- Lifesaving drugs: Artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs)
- Prevention of malaria in pregnant women: “Intermittent preventive treatment” (IPT)

### Preliminary Activities to Date

- CDC and USAID conducted a comprehensive malaria assessment in June 2006.
- Planning mission was completed in 2006 in coordination with CDC, USAID, UNICEF, and WHO.

\* Actual numbers of malaria cases are considered to be much higher, since the majority of cases in Africa are unreported.